

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendment and following remarks.

Objection

The specification has been objected to because of informalities. The Examiner indicates that the abstract does not contain proper language and format. The Abstract has been amended as shown above in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions.

Applicant respectfully requests that this objection be withdrawn.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 5 and 9 are independent. All of the pending claims have been rejected either under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or §103(a). By this Amendment, claims 1, 5, and 9 have been amended and claims 13-15 have been cancelled.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

In paragraph six (6) of the Office Action, claims 1, 3-5, 7, 8, 13 and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,754,323 to Kaji et al. ("Kaji").

In the present invention, when a high-luminance portion that exceeds a predetermined value is detected, a control signal is generated having a prescribed waveform that is defined in such a way that a suppression is reduced from the detected high-luminance portion toward a periphery of the detected high-luminance portion. The control signal thus suppresses a separated color signal.

To the contrary, the cited reference Kaji discloses that a gain is dropped either point-by-point or line-by-line in accordance with a detected brightness level. However, Kaji neither discloses nor suggests “a generating part which generates a control signal, which has a prescribed waveform which two-dimensionally spreads from a center of the high-luminance portion to the periphery in both a horizontal direction and a vertical direction and is defined in such a way that a suppression is reduced from the detected high-luminance portion toward a periphery of the detected high-luminance portion, in dependence upon the detection made by said detecting part.” Kaji also does not disclose or suggest “a suppression part which suppresses the separated color signal in a prescribed two-dimensional area including the detected high-luminance portion to both the horizontal direction and the vertical direction on the image by the control signal.”

Accordingly, Applicant believes that each of the independent claims 1 and 5 is distinguishable over Kaji for at least the reasons discussed above.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 1 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

In paragraph thirteen (13) of the Office Action, claims 9, 11, 12, and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaji.

Independent claim 9 recites, in a similar fashion to claims 1 and 5, “generation processing for generating a control signal, which has a prescribed waveform which two-dimensionally spreads from a center of the high-luminance portion to the periphery in both a horizontal direction and a vertical direction and is defined in such a way that a suppression is reduced from

the detected high-luminance portion toward a periphery of the detected high-luminance portion, in dependence upon the detection made by said detecting processing.” As discussed above, Applicant respectfully asserts that Kaji fails to show or suggest at least this recited feature of claim 9 for at least the same reasons discussed above for claims 1 and 5.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Applicant has not individually addressed the rejections of the dependent claims because the independent claims from which they respectively depend are in condition for allowance as set forth above. Applicant reserves the right to address such rejections of the dependent claims should it become necessary.

Additional References Cited in Information Disclosure Statement

Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open 8-079783 discloses a color signal that is muted in one horizontal line direction with respect to a detected high-luminance portion and a vertical edge. However, it does not disclose a color signal that is also suppressed in a vertical direction as the present invention. Specifically, it does not disclose “a generating part which generates a control signal, which has a prescribed waveform which two-dimensionally spreads from a center of the high-luminance portion to the periphery in both a horizontal direction and a vertical direction and is defined in such a way that a suppression is reduced from the detected high-luminance portion toward a periphery of the detected high-luminance portion, in dependence upon the detection made by said detecting part.” This reference also does not disclose “a suppression part which suppresses the separated color signal in a prescribed two-dimensional

area including the detected high-luminance portion to both the horizontal direction and the vertical direction on the image by the control signal.”

Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 11-027693 discloses a chroma key apparatus that sets a key signal for synthesizing a background and a foreground in a region within a YUV color-coordinates space. However, its object and structure are entirely different from those of the color suppression of the present invention.

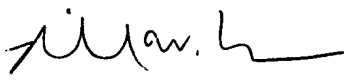
AUTHORIZATION

No petitions or additional fees are believed due for this amendment and/or any accompanying submissions. However, to the extent that any additional fees and/or petition is required, including a petition for extension of time, Applicant hereby petitions the Commissioner to grant such petition, and hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees, including any fees which may be required for such petition, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500 (Order No. 1232-4612). A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: April 23, 2004

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